

HOUSE RESOLUTION 77
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tennessee State University
President Dr. James A. Hefner on the occasion
of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for this Nation's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James A. Hefner is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity and has performed his duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction for fourteen years as President of Tennessee State University and will be taking a much deserved retirement on May 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hefner is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate the faculty and students of Tennessee State University to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hefner earned his undergraduate degree from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in Greensboro; he also holds a Master's Degree in Economics from Atlanta University and a Doctoral Degree in Economics from the University of Colorado, Boulder; and

WHEREAS, this talented educator has worked in numerous capacities and excelled in each of them; before becoming President of Tennessee State University, he served in the same capacity at Jackson State University in Mississippi and as Provost at Tuskegee Institute (now University) in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a visiting research associate at Harvard University, and Princeton University, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Dr. Hefner has also taught

at such esteemed institutions as Florida A&M University and Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he was the first professor to hold the Charles E. Merrill Chair of Economics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hefner's academic accomplishments include authoring or co-editing two books, and authoring over 50 articles and scholarly papers focused on minority economic issues; and

WHEREAS, an associate of numerous organizations aimed at promoting economic, labor, and management research, Dr. Hefner is a member of the American Economic Association, the Industrial Relations Research Association, and the National Institute of Public Management; and

WHEREAS, since his appointment as President of Tennessee State University (TSU) in 1991, he has provided capable and invaluable leadership to this school of nearly 10,000 dynamic and diverse undergraduate and graduate students; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional educator has long been recognized by his peers and students alike for his singular excellence; his many honors and accolades include the National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education's Presidential Leadership Award and Achievement Award in Research, and listings in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Black America*; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2004, Dr. Hefner was named Regents Professor and President Emeritus by the Tennessee Board of Regents; he also was named holder of TSU's Thomas and Patricia Frist Chair of Excellence in Entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, known throughout the greater Nashville community and his profession as a leader of the highest merit, Dr. Hefner has provided astute guidance to numerous civic, business, and education-oriented organizations, such as the United Way Board of Trustees, St. Thomas Hospital Board of Councilors, Leadership Nashville, and the Nashville Ballet Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, he has also served on the "Success by Six" Steering Committee and on the Third National Bank's External Council for the Community Economic Development Program; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Hefner is devoted to maintaining the highest ideals of family and community, and he is most grateful for the deep love he shares with his family; and

WHEREAS, he enjoys the love and companionship of his wife, Edwina Long, and is the proud father of three sons, Christopher, Jonathan, and David; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hefner truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues, faculty and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hefner exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to education, community, and family that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and we thank him and express our pride in his representation of our great State during his Presidency at Tennessee State University; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Dr. James A. Hefner, President of Tennessee State University, commend his exceptional service to the people of Nashville and Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and remarkable diligence and devotion, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.